

Dear Councilmembers,

We are families at DC General. We are here today to tell you that the Mayor's amendments to the Homeless Services Reform Act are misguided and insulting. We ask you to take them out of the Budget Support Act. They have no business there. We deserve the same process that every other DC resident gets when a law that is proposed that affects their rights. We deserve a hearing.

In spite of what the Mayor believes, we are not a horde of lazy, unmotivated, greedy moochers. We are families. We are people. We are tax payers; we just don't make as much money as you do. A shelter, even a well-run shelter, is no place to raise children. If you could see the number of depressed mothers and sick babies you would understand that we want to get out of there as quickly as possible.

This city is changing and we are being left behind. The housing that we used to be able to afford has disappeared. Jobs don't pay enough. Services that we need are drying up. The Mayor is asking you to believe that we are responsible and should be punished for the flood of new homeless families. But we ask you all to take a harder look.

We will speak up. We will be heard. We will be seen. Take the HSRA amendments OUT of the budget. Thank you for your time and support.